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Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 04517 111311Z
ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 OES-07 /049 W
----------081253 120041Z /63
R 111230Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7789
INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, SOCI, NI
SUBJECT: POPULATION: PROPOSED VISIT BY DR. AGUILLAUME, AVS
REIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER FOR AFRICA

REF: STATE 064016 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE PAID VISIT TO
UNIVERSITY OF IFE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT DR. SHOGBAMU'S ASSOCIATION
FOR VOLUNTARY STERILIZATION (AVS) PROJECT PROPOSAL. EXPLAINING
HIS INVOLVEMENT IN FAMILY PLANNING ACTIVITIES SINCE 1972,
DR. SHOGBAMU SAID HE BECAME INTERESTED IN THE PROJECT FOR THE
FOLLOWING REASONS: HIGH MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE (ABOUT 7.4
PER CENT PER THOUSAND). REASON FOR THE GEOGRAPHIC REGION OF HIS
STUDY IS THAT 75 PER CENT OF WOMEN IN CHILD BEARING AGE IN
IFE TOWN AND ITS ENVIRONS WERE GRAND MULTIPS, HAVING GIVEN BIRTH
TO SIX OR MORE CHILDREN.

2. THE DOCTOR SAID THE OCCUPATION OF PEOPLE IN
THIS AREA IS FARMING AND THAT INHABITANTS OF THE TWO VILLAGES
SELECTED FOR THE PROJECT ARE MOSTLY IBOS WHO ARE HIRED
TO WORK ON THE FARMS. OUT OF THE TOTAL POPULATION OF THESE
IBOS, 25 PERCENT ARE GRAND MULTIPS. HE ESTIMATED THAT DEATHS
RELATED TO CHILDBIRTH WERE CAUSED UNNECESSARILY.
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3. DR. SHOGBAMU STATES THAT HE HAS PERFORMED 100-120
STERILIZATIONS EVERY YEAR. THE DOCTOR ADMITTED THAT THIS
PROCEDURE WAS IRREVERSIBLE AND THAT PEOPLE WHO HAD
STERILIZATION LATER EXPERIENCED EXCESSIVE BLEEDING PLUS
FIBROIDS. HE SAID THAT HUSBANDS AGREED WHEN THEIR
CONSENT WAS SOUGHT. THE DOCTOR ADMITTED THAT THIS TYPE OF

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FAMILY PLANNING WAS EXTREME WHEN COMPARED WITH OTHER FAMILY PLANNING METHODS AVAILABLE IN THE COUNTRY, BUT MAINTAINED THAT IFE AND ITS ENVIRONS NEEDED THIS SERVICE.

4. THE EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THIS TYPE OF PROJECT WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE SUPPORTED BY NIGERIAN PUBLIC. COUNTRY DOES NOT APPEAR READY FOR SUCH AN EXTREME MODE OF FAMILY PLANNING. EVEN CONTRACTPTION PLANNING WHICH USES OTHER MORE CONSERVATIVE METHODS CONTINUES TO RECEIVE LITTLE COOPERATION AND RESPECT FROM THE PUBLIC. FOR REASONS STATED IN OUR PREVIOUS MESSAGES, WE THINK USG SUPPORT OF THIS PROJECT WOULD BE IMPRUDENT.

5. AS A MEANS OF TESTING PUBLIC SENTIMENT ON THIS SUBJECT, WE ARE CONSIDERING SUGGESTING TO DR. SHOGBAMU THAT HE ARRANGE A SEMINAR WHERE SUBJECT CAN BE FULLY DISCUSSED WITH PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENCT WALKS OF LIFE. COMMENTS WHICH EMERGE ROM THIS SEMINAR WOULD HELP TO DETERMINE ACCEPTANCE OF PROJECT. EASUM

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